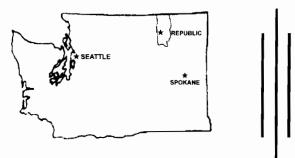
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BRAD L. MILLER, Curlew, District 1 RONALD L. BACON, Republic, District 2 MIKE L. BLANKENSHIP, Boyds-District 3 FERRY COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

290 EAST TESSIE AVENUE REPUBLIC, WASHINGTON 99166 TELEPHONE (509) 775-5229 · FAX (509) 775-5230

JOY OSTERBERG, Clerk of the Board joy@co.ferry.wa.us

June 20, 2006

Mr. Mike Blankenship Chairman Ferry County Board of Commissioners 290 East Tessie AVE Republic, WA 99166 Telephone (509) 775-5229 Facsimile (509) 775-5230

Vicki Rutson
Chief of Section of Environmental Assessment
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

RE: Environmental Report (49 CFR Section 1105.7) Kettle Falls International Railway, LLC. Abandonment Exemption in Ferry County, Washington. Docket No. AB-994 (Sub-No. 1X)

Dear Vicki Rutson,

We would like to add the following comments to the file:

In response to Kettle Falls International Railway letter and Environmental Report dated June 2, 2006 to the Ferry County Board of Commissioners, we add the following comments;

Regarding section 3 Land Use of your environmental report item (i), the land use plans that this abandonment is consistent with are those regarding such use resulting from rail banking, specifically Chapter 6.2.8 goal E4 "Recreation and tourism are an integral part of the economy of Ferry County. The goal for recreational land is to encourage and accommodate as many diverse recreational activities and areas as possible that are compatible with other land uses." Also policy E11 "Encourage and develop diversity of outdoor recreation on public lands including but not limited to cross country ski trails, back pack trails, off road vehicle areas and photographic trails etc."

Environmental Report section 3 item (iv).

(iv) The right-of-way involved is not suitable for alternative public use under Section 10905 because it is needed for flood control, redesign of a highway interchange, and the development of a green way.

We respectfully disagree with this statement because an alternative public use condition is well within the scope of Ferry County's Land Use Plan, specifically regarding Open Space Corridors in section 7.7.8. Acquiring and developing a trail through rail banking most specifically meets this goal.

BOARD OF FERRY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MIKE L. BLANKENSHIP, Chairmar

Enclosures

Kettle Falls International Railway, LLC

50 South Steele Suite 250 Denver, CO 80209

Telephone: (303) 398-4500 Facsimile: (303) 398-4540

www.omnitrax.com

June 2, 2006

Mr. Mike Blankenship Chairman Ferry County Board of Commissioners 290 East Tessie Avenue Republic, WA 99166





Re: STB Docket No. AB-994 (Sub-No. 1X), Kettle Falls International Railway, LLC – Abandonment Exemption – Ferris County, Washington

Dear Mr. Blankenship:

On or shortly after June 20, 2006, Kettle Falls International Railway, LLC ("KFR") will file with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") a Petition for Exemption seeking authority to abandon its 28-mile rail line located between milepost 48.779 near Danville, Washington and milepost 77.14 near San Poil, Washington (the "Line"). Attached is an Environmental Report describing the proposed action and any expected environmental effects, as well as a map of the affected area.

KFR is providing this report so that you may review the information that will form the basis for the STB's independent environmental analysis of this proceeding. If any of the information is misleading or incorrect, if you believe that pertinent information is missing, or if you have any questions about the STB's environmental review process, please contact the Section of Environmental Analysis ("SEA"), Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001, telephone (202) 565-1545, and refer to the above Docket No. AB-994. Because the applicable statutes and regulations impose stringent deadlines for processing this action, your written comments to SEA (with a copy to the undersigned) would be appreciated within 3 weeks.

Your comments will be considered by the STB in evaluating the environmental impacts of the contemplated action. If you have any questions concerning this proposal, please contact the undersigned by telephone at (303) 398-4506 or at my e-mail address at mogborn@omnitrax.com or by mail at 50 South Steele Street, Suite 250, Denver, Colorado 80209.

Sincerely.

Mika Odran

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ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT (49 CFR SECTION 1105.7)

KETTLE FALLS INTERNATIONAL RAILWAY, LLC -- ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION -IN FERRY COUNTY, WASHINGTON

DOCKET NO. AB-994 (SUB-NO. 1X)

1. Proposed Actions and Alternatives. Describe the proposed action, including commodities transported, the planned disposition (if any) of any rail line and other structures that may be involved, and any possible changes in the current operations or maintenance practices. Also describe any reasonable alternatives to the proposed action. Include a readable, detailed map and drawings clearly delineating the project.

Kettle Falls International Railway, L.L.C. ("KFR") proposes to abandon approximately 28 miles of trackage in Ferry County, Washington located between milepost 48.779 near Danville, Washington and milepost 77.14 near San Poil, Washington (the "Line"). Upon receipt of abandonment authority, KFR intends to remove the rail, track materials, and cross ties. KFR will not remove any bridges.

The one shipper on the Line moved its operation in October, 2005 and dismantled its facility. All the traffic previously handled on the Line is now being handled by KFR on another of its rail lines. Thus, with the relocation of this shipper to another rail line, KFR will continue to have the responsibility for maintaining the Line but without any traffic on it. The only alternative to abandonment would be to not abandon the Line and pass the opportunity costs of retaining the Line to all other KFR customers. Obviously this would not be a prudent use of KFR's resources.

A map of the proposed abandonment is attached as Exhibit 1.

2. Transportation System. Describe the effects of the proposed action on regional or local transportation systems and patterns. Estimate the amount of traffic (passenger or freight) that will be diverted to other transportation systems or modes as a result of the proposed action.

No freight traffic has moved on the Line since October, 2005, when the only shipper on the Line ceased operations and moved to another KFR rail line. Because the traffic has already shifted to that other KFR line, the proposed abandonment will have no adverse effects on local or regional transportation systems or patterns because the traffic that now that do not the Line has been at as found to mother raise in both the chipper mode in the complete with the dispersional in the contraction of the Line has been at as found by the line has been at the line has been at the line by the line has been at the line has b

- 3. Land Use. (i) Based on consultation with local and/or regional planning agencies and/or a review of the official planning documents prepared by such agencies, state whether the proposed action is consistent with existing land use plans. Describe any inconsistencies. (ii) Based on the consultation with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, state the effect of the proposed action on any prime agricultural land. (iii) If the action affects land or water uses within a designated coastal zone, include the coastal zone information required by §1105.9. (iv) If the proposed action is an abandonment, state whether or not the right-of-way is suitable for alternative public use under 49 U.S.C. 10905 and explain why.
- (i) KFR is confident that the proposed abandonment will be consistent with local land use plans. KFR has contacted the local government in Ferry County as shown by the letter attached as Exhibit 2. To date, no response to this inquiry has been received. A copy of this Report has been mailed to the appropriate local and state agencies for their information and comment.
- (ii) KFR is confident the proposed abandonment will not have any detrimental effect on any prime agricultural land. KFR contacted the U.S. Soil Conservation Service as shown by the letter attached as Exhibit 3. The Service determined that the proposed project will have no effect on prime farm land as is shown by the attached letter marked as Exhibit 3A.
- (iii) The Line is not located in a designated coastal zone.
- (iv) The right-of-way involved is not suitable for alternative public use under Section 10905 because it is needed for flood control, redesign of a highway interchange, and the development of a green way.
- 4. Energy. (i) Describe the effect of the proposed action on transportation of energy resources. (ii) Describe the effect of the proposed action on recyclable commodities. (iii) State whether the proposed action will result in an increase or decrease in overall energy efficiency and explain why. (iv) If the proposed action will cause diversions from rail to motor carriage of more than: (A) 1,000 rail carloads a year; or (B) an average of 50 rail carloads per mile per year for any part of the affected line, quantify the resulting act change in energy consumption and show data and methodology used to arrive at the figure given.
- (i) The proposed abandonment will have no effect on the transportation of energy resources.
- (ii) The proposed abandonment will have no effect on the transportation of recyclable pages titles.

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- (iv) The proposed abandonment will not meet or exceed these levels.
- (i) If the proposed action will result in either: (A) An increase in rail 5. Air. traffic of at least 100 percent (measured in gross ton miles annually) or an increase of at least eight trains a day on any segment of rail line affected by the proposal, or (B) an increase in rail yard activity of at least 100 percent (measured by carload activity), or (C) an average increase in truck traffic of more than 10 percent of the average daily traffic or 50 vehicles a day on any affected road segment, quantify the anticipated effect on air emissions. For a proposal under 49 U.S.C. 10901 (or 10502) to construct a new line or reinstitute service over a previously abandoned line, only the eight train a day provision in subsection (5)(i)(a) will apply. (ii) If the proposed action affects a class I or non-attainment area under the Clean Air Act, and will result in either: (A) An increase in rail traffic of at least 50 percent (measured in gross ton miles annually) or an increase of at least three trains a day on any segment of rail line, (B) An increase in rail yard activity of at least 20 percent (measured by carload activity), or (C) An average increase in truck traffic of more than 10 percent of the average daily traffic or 50 vehicles a day on a given road segment, then state whether any expected increased emissions are within the parameters established by the State Implementation Plan. However, for a rail construction under 49 U.S.C. 10901 (or 49 U.S.C. 10505), or a case involving the reinstitution of service over a previously abandoned line, only the three train a day threshold in this item shall apply. (iii) If transportation of ozone depleting materials (such as nitrogen oxide and freon) is contemplated, identify: the materials and quantity; the frequency of service; safety practices (including any speed restrictions); the applicant's safety record (to the extent available) on derailments, accidents and spills; contingency plans to deal with accidental spills; and the likelihood of an accidental release of ozone depleting materials in the event of a collision or derailment.
- (i) The proposed abandonment will not result in meeting or exceeding these thresholds.
- (ii) The proposed abandonment will not result in meeting or exceeding these thresholds.
- (iii) The proposed abandonment will not effect the transportation of ozone depletion materials.
- 6. Noise. If any of the thresholds identified in item 5(i) of this section are surpassed, state whether the proposed action will cause: (i) An incremental increase in noise levels of three decibels Ldn or more; or (ii) An increase to a noise level of 65 decibels Ldn or greater. If so, identify sensitive receptors (e.g., schools, libraries, hospitals, residences, retirement communities, and nursing homes) in the project area, and quantify the arise increase for these receptors if the thresholds are cargonaled.

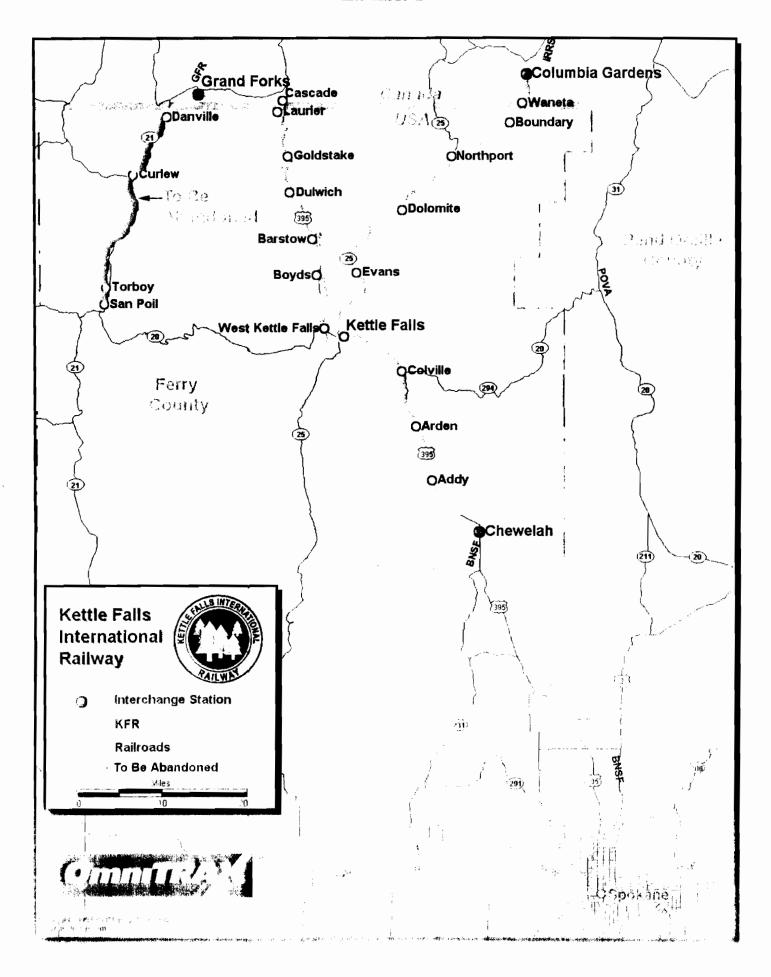
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- 7. Safety. (i) Describe any effects of the proposed action on public health and safety (including vehicle delay time at railroad crossings). (ii) If hazardous materials are expected to be transported, identify: the materials and quantity; the frequency of service; whether chemicals are being transported that, if mixed, could react to form more hazardous compounds; safety practices (including speed restrictions); the applicant's safety record (to the extent available) on derailments, accidents and hazardous spills; the contingency plans to deal with accidental spills; and the likelihood of an accidental release of hazardous materials. (iii) If there are any known hazardous waste sites or sites where there have been known hazardous materials spills on the right-of-way, identify the location of those sites and the types of hazardous materials involved.
- (i) KFR submits there will be little if any impact on public health or safety associated with the proposed abandonment because the traffic has already been relocated to another KFR line. The eventual removal of public and private crossings will, however, have a positive impact on vehicular traffic that will no longer have to deal with the crossings.
- (ii) The proposed abandonment will have no effect on the transportation of hazardous materials.
- (iii) KFR is unaware of any hazardous waste sites or sites where hazardous spills have occurred on the right-of-way.
- 8. Biological Resources. (i) Based on consultations with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, state whether the proposed action its likely to adversely affect endangered or threatened species or areas designated as critical habitat, and if so, describe the effects. (ii) State whether wildlife sanctuaries or refuges, National or State parks or forests will be affected, and describe any effects.
- (i) KFR is confident that the proposed abandonment will not have any adverse affect on threatened or endangered species or areas designated as a critical habitat. KFR has contacted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as is shown by the letter attached as Exhibit 4. To date, no response to this request has been received. A copy of this report has been supplied to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for its information and comment.
- (ii) KFR believes there are no wildlife sanctuaries or refuges or National or State parks that would be adversely affected by the proposed abandonment. KFR has contacted the National Park Service as shown by the letter attached as Exhibit 5. To date, no response to this request has been received. A copy of this report has been supplied to the National Park Service for its information and comment.
- Description of Beneficial measurable from with the Intellers consequently reflected at the content of the proposed action is a relative with applied to Colored. It are not as a relative to the species of the Colored. It are not also as a first of the species of the colored to the species of the colored to the species of the colored to the colored to

any designated wetlands or 100-year flood plains will be affected. Describe the effects. (iii) State whether permits under section 402 of the Clean Air Act (33 U.S.C. 1342) are required for the proposed action. (Applicants should contact the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency or the state environmental protection or equivalent agency if they are unsure whether such permits are required.)

- (i) KFR is confident the proposed abandonment will not be inconsistent with applicable water quality standards. KFR contacted the Washington Department of Ecology ("WDE") as shown by the letter attached as Exhibit 6. To date, no response has been received from WDE. A copy of this report has been supplied to that department for its information and comment.
- (ii) KFR believes the proposed abandonment will not require the issuance of any permits under Section 404 of the Clean Air Act. KFR contacted the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as is shown by the letter attached as Exhibit 7. To date, no response to this inquiry has been received. A copy of this report has been supplied to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for its information and comment.
- (iii) KFR believes the proposed abandonment will not require the issuance of any permits under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act. KFR contacted the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as shown by the letter attached as Exhibit 8. To date, no response to this inquiry has been received. A copy of this report has been supplied to the U.S. Environmental Agency for its information and comment.
- 10. Proposed Mitigation. Describe any actions that are proposed to mitigate adverse environmental impacts, indicating why the proposed mitigation is appropriate.

KFR does not anticipate any adverse environmental impact from the proposed abandonment nor have the recipients of this report advised of the need for special mitigation.



Kettle Falls International Railway, LLC

50 South Steele Suite 250 Denver, CO 80209 Telephone: (303) 398-4500

Facsimile: (303) 398-4540 www.omnitrax.com

www.onminuax.com

May 2, 2006

Mr. Mike Blankenship Chairman Ferry County Board of Commissioners 290 East Tessie Avenue Republic, Washington 99166

Re: STB Docket No. AB-994 (Sub-No. 1X), Kettle Falls International Railway, LLC – Abandonment Exemption – Ferris County, Washington

Dear Chairman Blankenship:

Kettle Falls International Railway, LLC plans to file a Petition for Exemption at the Surface Transportation Board on or about May 15, 2006, to abandon approximately 28 miles of trackage in Ferry County, Washington located between milepost 48.779 near Danville, Washington and milepost 77.381 near San Poil, Washington. A map and a narrative description of the proposed abandonment are attached to this letter.

49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(e)(3)(i) states that, "Based on consultation with local and/or regional planning agencies and/or review of the planning documents prepared by such agencies, state whether the proposed action is consistent with existing land use plans. Describe any inconsistencies."

We would appreciate your review of the proposed abandonment as required by this section. Your response will be included in the Environmental Report prepared for this abandonment and a copy of the report will be mailed to you. To facilitate your reply, please find enclosed a return prepaid Federal Express envelope for your use.

Please feel free to contact me at (303) 398-4506 if you have any questions about this matter. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

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EXHIBIT 3

Kettle Falls International Railway, LLC

50 South Steele Suite 250 Denver, CO 80209 Telephone: (303) 398-4500

Facsimile: (303) 398-4540 www.omnitrax.com

May 2, 2006

State Conservationist United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service 316 West Boone Avenue, Suite 450 Spokane, Washington 99201-2348

Re: STB Docket No. AB-994 (Sub-No. 1X), Kettle Falls International Railway, LLC - Abandonment Exemption - Ferris County, Washington

To Whom It May Concern:

Kettle Falls International Railway, LLC plans to file a Petition for Exemption at the Surface Transportation Board on or about May 15, 2006, to abandon approximately 28 miles of trackage in Ferry County, Washington located between milepost 48.779 near Danville, Washington and milepost 77.381 near San Poil, Washington. A map and a narrative description of the proposed abandonment are attached to this letter.

49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(e)(3)(ii) states that, "Based upon consultation with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, state the effects of the proposed action on any prime agricultural land."

We would appreciate your review of the proposed abandonment as required by this section. Your response will be included in the Environmental Report prepared for this abandonment and a copy of the report will be mailed to you. To facilitate your reply, please find enclosed a return prepaid Federal Express envelope for your use.

Please feel free to contact me at (303) 398-4506 if you have any questions about this matter. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely

" your Ogen

K_{FR}

Exhibit 3A

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service 316 W. Boone Ave. Suite 370 Spokane, WA 99201-2348 phone 509-343-2265 fax 509-343-2280 web site www.wa.nrcs.usda.gov

Date: May 8, 2006

Mike Ogborn, Manager Kettle Falls International Railway, LLC 50 South Steele, Suite 250 Denver, CO 80209

Re: STB Docket No. AB – 994 (Sub-No.1X), Kettle Falls International Railway, LLC – Abandonment Exemption – Ferry County, Washington

Dear Mr. Ogborn:

Thank you for your request. The rail line that is proposed for abandonment does not contain Prime Farmland. Your request deals specifically with land that has already been converted from agricultural land for use as a railway. Once this conversion has taken place, the Natural Resource Conservation Service (formerly the Soil Conservation Service) no longer considers the land to have a farm classification designation.

Surrounding areas along the corridor may, or may not, be classified as Prime Farmland. However, those designations would have no bearing on the classification of the proposed abandoned railway.

Sincerely,

Chandra Neils

Area Resource Soil Scientist USDA-NRCS 316 W. Boone Ave., Ste 370

Chandra, Neils

Spokane, WA 99201-2348

(509) 343-2269

Kettle Falls International Railway, LLC

50 South Steele Suite 250 Denver, CO 80209 Telephone: (303) 398-4500 Facsimile: (303) 398-4540

www.omnitrax.com

May 2, 2006

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 911 NE 11th Avenue Portland, Oregon 97232-4181

Re: STB Docket No. AB-994 (Sub-No. 1X), Kettle Falls International Railway, LLC – Abandonment Exemption – Ferris County, Washington

To Whom It May Concern:

Kettle Falls International Railway, LLC plans to file a Petition for Exemption at the Surface Transportation Board on or about May 15, 2006, to abandon approximately 28 miles of trackage in Ferry County, Washington located between milepost 48.779 near Danville, Washington and milepost 77.381 near San Poil, Washington. A map and a narrative description of the proposed abandonment are attached to this letter.

49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(e)(8)(i) states that, "Based upon consultation the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, state whether the proposed action is likely to adversely affect endangered or threatened species or areas designated as a critical habitat, and, if so, describe the effects."

We would appreciate your review of the proposed abandonment as required by this section. Your response will be included in the Environmental Report prepared for this abandonment and a copy of the report will be mailed to you. To facilitate your reply, please find enclosed a return prepaid Federal Express envelope for your use.

Please feel free to contact me at (303) 398-4506 if you have any questions about this matter. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

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Kettle Falls International Railway, LLC

50 South Steele Suite 250 Denver, CO 80209 Telephone: (303) 398-4500

Facsimile: (303) 398-4540

www.omnitrax.com



May 2, 2006

National Park Service Recreation & Conservation 1849 C Street, NW Washington, D.C. 20240-0001

Re: STB Docket No. AB-994 (Sub-No. 1X), Kettle Falls International Railway, LLC -Abandonment Exemption – Ferris County, Washington

To Whom It May Concern:

Kettle Falls International Railway, LLC plans to file a Petition for Exemption at the Surface Transportation Board on or about May 15, 2006, to abandon approximately 28 miles of trackage in Ferry County, Washington located between milepost 48.779 near Danville, Washington and milepost 77.381 near San Poil, Washington. A map and a narrative description of the proposed abandonment are attached to this letter.

KFR would appreciate your assistance in identifying the existence of any wildlife sanctuaries or refuges, national or state parks or forests in the area of the proposed abandonment as provided for at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(e)(8)(ii). Your response will be included in the Environmental Report prepared for this abandonment and a copy of the report will be mailed to you. To facilitate your reply, please find enclosed a return prepaid Federal Express envelope for your use.

Please feel free to contact me at (303) 398-4506 if you have any questions about this matter. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

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Kettle Falls International Railway, LLC

50 South Steele Suite 250 Denver, CO 80209 Telephone: (303) 398-4500 Facsimile: (303) 398-4540



May 2, 2006

www.omnitrax.com

Department of Ecology P.O. Box 47600 Olympia, Washington 98504-7600

Re: STB Docket No. AB-994 (Sub-No. 1X), Kettle Falls International Railway, LLC – Abandonment Exemption – Ferris County, Washington

To Whom It May Concern:

Kettle Falls International Railway, LLC plans to file a Petition for Exemption at the Surface Transportation Board on or about May 15, 2006, to abandon approximately 28 miles of trackage in Ferry County, Washington located between milepost 48.779 near Danville, Washington and milepost 77.381 near San Poil, Washington. A map and a narrative description of the proposed abandonment are attached to this letter.

49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(e)(9)(i) states, "Based upon consultation the State water quality officials, state whether the proposed action is consistent with applicable Federal, state, or local water quality standards. Describe any inconsistencies."

We would appreciate your review of the proposed abandonment as required by this section. Your response will be included in the Environmental Report prepared for this abandonment and a copy of the report will be mailed to you. To facilitate your reply, please find enclosed a return prepaid Federal Express envelope for your use.

Please feel free to contact me at (303) 398-4506 if you have any questions about this matter. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely

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" Carolina Brown

Kettle Falls International Railway, LLC

50 South Steele Suite 250 Denver, CO 80209 Telephone: (303) 398-4500

Facsimile: (303) 398-4540 www.omnitrax.com

May 2, 2006

Chief, Regulatory Branch U.S. Army Corps of Engineers P.O Box 3755 Seattle, Washington 98124-2255

Re: STB Docket No. AB-994 (Sub-No. 1X), Kettle Falls International Railway, LLC – Abandonment Exemption – Ferris County, Washington

To Whom It May Concern:

Kettle Falls International Railway, LLC plans to file a Petition for Exemption at the Surface Transportation Board on or about May 15, 2006, to abandon approximately 28 miles of trackage in Ferry County, Washington located between milepost 48.779 near Danville, Washington and milepost 77.381 near San Poil, Washington. A map and a narrative description of the proposed abandonment are attached to this letter.

49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(e)(9)(ii) indicates that abandonment applicants should contact your agency to determine if permits under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) are required for the proposed action and to determine whether any wetlands or 100-year flood plains will be affected.

We would appreciate your review of the proposed abandonment as required by this section and this Act. Your response will be included in the Environmental Report prepared for this abandonment and a copy of the report will be mailed to you. To facilitate your reply, please find enclosed a return prepaid Federal Express envelope for your use.

Please feel free to contact me at (303) 398-4506 if you have any questions about this matter. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

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Kettle Falls International Railway, LLC

50 South Steele Suite 250 Denver, CO 80209

Telephone: (303) 398-4500 Facsimile: (303) 398-4540 www.omnitrax.com



May 2, 2006

United States Environmental Protection Agency 1200 Sixth Avenue Seattle, Washington 98101

Re: STB Docket No. AB-994 (Sub-No. 1X), Kettle Falls International Railway, LLC – Abandonment Exemption – Ferris County, Washington

To Whom It May Concern:

Kettle Falls International Railway, LLC plans to file a Petition for Exemption at the Surface Transportation Board on or about May 15, 2006, to abandon approximately 28 miles of trackage in Ferry County, Washington located between milepost 48.779 near Danville, Washington and milepost 77.381 near San Poil, Washington. A map and a narrative description of the proposed abandonment are attached to this letter.

49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(e)(9)(iii) indicates that the abandonment proponent contact your agency to determine if permits under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1342) are required for this proposed action.

We would appreciate your review of the proposed abandonment as required by this section. Your response will be included in the Environmental Report prepared for this abandonment and a copy of the report will be mailed to you. To facilitate your reply, please find enclosed a return prepaid Federal Express envelope for your use.

Please feel free to contact me at (303) 398-4506 if you have any questions about this matter. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely

Mike Hyborn

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